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DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/23/2018
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SUBJECT: IRISH JUSTICE MINISTRY ADDRESSES 2008 TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: STATE 58441

Classified By: Ambassador Thomas C. Foley;
Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

¶1. (C) During Ambassador's June 19 meeting with newly appointed Minister of Justice, Equality and Law Reform Dermot Ahern (other issues reported septel) the Justice Department's Secretary General Sean Aylward raised the Irish Government's view of the 2008 TIP report. Aylward noted that Irish NGOs -- from which much of the data in the TIP report was obtained -- maintained a high profile, which created a institutional interest in highlighting -- and sometimes even exaggerating -- the TIP problem. Aylward went on to note, however, that relations between the Irish Government and the NGOs dealing with TIP isles were generally good. (Note: The Irish Government provides funds to the NGO Ruhama to provide services to victims of trafficking. End note.)

¶2. (C) Ahern agreed with Aylward's assessment, expressed regret that Ireland had been downgraded, and wryly noted, "People who live in glass houses," Ken O'Leary, the Department's Assistant Secretary, expressed frustration that the TIP report seemed to discount substantial Irish progress, saying, "No matter what we do, we always seem to be downgraded."

¶3. (C) The Ambassador said that part of the reason for the downgrading of Ireland to Tier Two in the 2008 report was simply poor timing, as Ireland's new anti-trafficking legislation had not been fully enacted before the 2008 TIP report went to the presses.

¶4. (C) Comment: Post will continue to work with the Anti-Trafficking Unit in the Department of Justice to ensure that Ireland reaches international anti-trafficking in persons standards.
FOLEY